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November 30, 2020

An open letter to all who own property adjacent to Mulatto Run:

RE: Proposed renaming of Mulatto Run to Pass Run

Dear Madison County Property Owner:

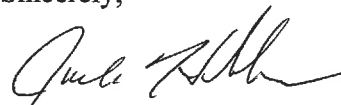
The Madison County Board of Supervisors has received a request to change the name of Mulatto Run near Aylor to Pass Run. We are sending this letter to all owners of property along Mulatto Run, seeking your feedback on this request.

The Board on Geographic Names of the U.S. Department of the Interior is the federal agency with authority over the names of geographic places in the United States. They will consider a request for a name change for a "compelling reason", one of which is if the current name is derogatory or offensive. The Oxford dictionary says that "mulatto" is a dated and offensive term.

The Board on Geographic Names' policy on requests to change a name rests on "local use and acceptance." Max Lacy of the Madison County Historical Society has informed us that the original name of Mulatto Run was Pass Run. Prof. Carole Nash of James Madison University confirms that the original name was Pass Run. There is a reference book in the Madison County Library, "Land Grants and Surveys of Madison County" by Dewey Lillard in 1999, that says that Mulatto Run's original name at the time of the early land grants in 1733/34 was Pass Run and that it was renamed about 1842. We believe that the creek was called Pass Run for over 100 years.

The Board on Geographic Names recommends that letters of support from property owners be attached to the name change request form. To that end, the Madison County Board of Supervisors is seeking your comment, and if you are comfortable doing so, a letter documenting your support. We would appreciate your reply by December 15, either by email to jfrye@madisonco.virginia.gov (please put Mulatto Run in the subject line) or by US mail to the address above (please put Mulatto Run on the outside of the envelope).

Sincerely,



Jack Hobbs
County Administrator